

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 14241 080830Z

21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /063 W

----- 039454

R 080745Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14241

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EAIR BM HK CH VN LA TH

SUBJECT: UNION OF BURMA AIRWAYS CONSIDERS HANOI-CANTON-HONG KONG  
ROUTE

SUMMARY: UNION OF BURMA AIRWAYS (UBA) IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH A  
NEW AIR ROUTE RUNNING FROM RANGOON TO BANGKOK, VIENTIANE, HANOI,  
CANTON AND HONG KONG. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST AIR ROUTE DIRECTLY  
CONNECTING HONG KONG WITH A MAINLAND CHINA CITY AND ALSO THE  
FIRST HONG KONG-HANOI AIR LINK. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE  
THAT PROSPECTS FOR THE ROUTE TO BE OPERATIONAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE  
ARE NOT GOOD. END SUMMARY

1. OFFICIAL BRITISH SOURCES INFORMED CONGEN OFF THAT UBA, UNDER  
THE PRODDING OF PRESIDENT NE WIN, HAS BEEN EXPLORING THE POSSI-  
BILITY OF ESTABLISHING A RANGOON-BANGKOK-VIENTIANE-HANOI-CANTON-  
HONG KONG ROUTE. THE BURMESE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION  
REPORTEDLY TRAVELED TO THE PRC THIS YEAR AND SECURED CHINESE  
AGREEMENT ON THE CANTON-HONG KONG LEG. THE BURMESE ALREADY  
HAVE A LONG STANDING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH ON A RANGOON-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 14241 080830Z

HONG KONG ROUTE VIA THE CHINA MAINLAND AND VIETNAM RECENTLY

AGREED TO UBA OVERFLIGHTS.

2. THE BRITISH POINT OUT THAT THE FOLLOWING MAJOR DIFFICULTIES  
MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE ROUTE CAN BE OPERATIONAL:

A. TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE FOR HANDLING THE  
FLIGHTS BETWEEN CANTON AND HONG KONG. THE BRITISH INFORMED  
THE BURMESE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO TALK TO THE CHINESE  
ABOUT THESE ARRANGEMENTS ON ANY LEVEL-DIPLOMATIC, CIVIL  
AVIATION OR CONTROLLER--BUT IT WAS UP TO THE BURMESE TO  
GET THE TALKS SET UP.

B. GIVEN THE CURRENT STATE OF POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND  
AND VIETNAM SINCE THE OCT. 6 CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN BANGKOK,  
THE THAIS MIGHT HAVE OBJECTIONS TO BANGKOK BEING ON THE ROUTE.  
UBA OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE BANGKOK  
STOP DROPPED BUT NE WIN IS INSISTING ON IT.

C. THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTIES FINDING PILOTS FOR THIS ROUTE.  
CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE ROUTE, IT WOULD BE IMPOLITIC  
TO USE EXPATRIATE PILOTS AND ALL THE UBA BURMESE PILOTS ARE  
SAID TO BE AT PRESENT IN JAIL ON CHARGES INVOLVING ILLEGAL  
POSSESSION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY.

COMMENT: THE UBA CANTON-HONG KONG LINK WOULD PROVE CONVENIENT  
FOR THE CHINESE, WHO ARE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN INCREASING THEIR  
TIES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD WHILE ENABLING THEM TO CONTINUE IN  
THEIR "PRINCIPLED STAND" OF NO PRC FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG SO LONG  
AS TAIWAN HAS ITS AIRLINE HERE. HONG KONG'S CATHAY PACIFIC  
DOES NOT FLY TO THE MAINLAND SINCE THEY PREFER THE MORE LUCRATIVE  
TAIWAN ROUTE. THE VIETNAMESE, WHO ARE CLEARLY EAGER TO IMPROVE  
TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, MUST CERTAINLY WELCOME THE PROS-  
PECTS OF A DIRECT LINK WITH A MAJOR AIR CENTER SUCH AS HONG KONG,  
SINCE VIETNAM-BOUND WESTERN BUSINESSMEN AND VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS  
ARE MOSTLY LIMITED TO THE CUMBERSOME CHOICES OF TRAVELING TO  
VIENTIANE OR TO NANNING (PRC). OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG NOTE THAT  
IF THE BURMESE FOLLOW THEIR USUAL PACE AT GETTING THINGS DONE,  
EVEN WITH UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT, IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE  
UBA EVER GETS AN AIRCRAFT TO MAKE THIS RUN.

CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 14241 080830Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR ROUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976HONGK14241  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760453-0360  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761263/aaaacceh.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNION OF BURMA AIRWAYS CONSIDERS HANOI-CANTON-HONG KONG ROUTE SUMMARY: UNION OF BURMA AIRWAYS (UBA) IS TRYING TO  
**TAGS:** EAIR, BM, HK, CH, VN, LA, TH, UNION OF BURMA AIRWAYS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006